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OUR STATE  
BEGINS ITS  
DESCENT  
TOWARD AN  
UNRECOGNIZABLE  
FUTURE



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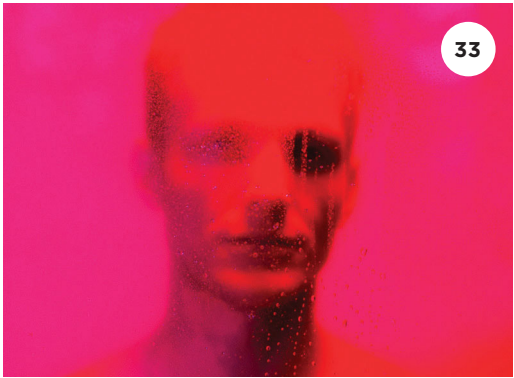
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Ice sculpture by Minnesota Ice. Photo by Colleen Guenther.

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## THE SHORTLIST



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WEICHERT REALTORS ADVANTAGE

### THE STAT SHEET:

Republicans' "middle-class tax cut," one year later

**\$0**  
Federal income taxes paid by Netflix, despite \$845 million in profits

**\$0**  
Federal income taxes paid by Amazon last year, despite \$11.2 billion in profits

**8.7%**  
Decline in the average federal tax refund this year for everyone else

**40%**  
Rise in the federal budget deficit since last year

**"Things that are not true: Measles can cure cancer, Republicans are not racist, and Melania married for love."**

Reader Pancho Gonzalez responds to "Wife of top Trump official claims measles 'keep you healthy,' 'fight cancer,'" at [citypages.com](http://citypages.com).

### SHAMING THE SHAMELESS

**THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY** is an annual lock to win the Predatory Capitalist of the Year Award, thanks to its penchant for doubling and tripling prices, despite no improvement in quality and no change in costs.

Since Congress is too bought to keep the Big Bad Wolf at bay, Minnesota hopes some public shame might at least temper the industry's avarice. A bipartisan bill would force companies to announce major hikes 30 days in advance. They would also have to provide an explanation for jacking up the price, or face a \$10,000-a-day fine.

Though it may be impossible to shame the shameless, consider it one small step in fighting back against the parasites at our door.

### POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

The Bit: How Minnesota's KFAN became America's **DOMINANT SPORTS RADIO** station

**HALSEY: G-EAZY'S** relationship-ending hook-up happened in Minneapolis

Minnesota's first **NO-WASTE STORE** lands a space in Minneapolis

**BASILICA BLOCK PARTY** reveals super strong 2019 lineup

**RACIST SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS** spark altercation at Minnesota's Owatonna High School



# ANGRY ANCHORMAN

Jeff Passolt sues Minnesota over slippery Capitol sidewalk

Jeff Passolt, the longtime Fox 9 news anchor and Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Famer, is a native Minnesotan. So you'd think he'd know the pitfalls of walking in this winter wonderland.

But one February day two years ago, he encountered a treachery known as the slippery sidewalk. Passolt had just interviewed then-Gov. Mark Dayton at the Capitol and was heading back to his car, which was parked near the corner of Cedar Street and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

He noticed salt "or some other surface compound" on the pavement and stepped carefully over the curb. That's when his left foot shot out from under him and he tumbled to the concrete.

It was a nasty fall. So nasty, in fact, that Passolt filed a lawsuit against the Minnesota Department of Administration last week, charging the state with

negligence for not being dutiful enough in its snow removal.

"Passolt claims that there are products available that, when applied to sidewalks like the one where he fell, will provide

His left foot shot out from under him and he tumbled to the concrete.

traction to pedestrians even through changing conditions," the complaint says. "And Passolt claims that the Minnesota

Department of Administration's negligence was a direct cause of Passolt's fall and injury on February 7, 2017."

The anchorman asserts the fall "seriously and permanently injured him." He told the Star Tribune that his recovery was complicated by his diabetes, and that his ongoing injuries have resulted in "pain, disability, disfigurement, embarrassment, and emotional distress." He's now awaiting a hip replacement.

The anchor is asking for a payoff in excess of \$50,000 from the state. The department didn't respond to interview requests, but said in a statement that it had no control over Passolt's tumble.

The dispute will be decided in Ramsey County District Court. In the meantime, readers should be aware that this is Minnesota. It snows here. And sometimes it gets slippery.

—HANNAH JONES



PHOTO COURTESY FOX 9 NEWS

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**MAR 3 & 17**  
**JOYANN PARKER**  
THE MUSIC OF PATSY CLINE

**FEB 24**  
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**MARDI GRAS**  
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Parker  
Sings Patsy  
Cline

FEB 28  
7PM



Atlanta  
Rhythm  
Section

MAR 1  
7 & 9PM



VIEUX CARRÉ

Danú

MAR 1  
7:30 &  
9:30PM



Patty Peterson  
Presents: Jazz  
Women All-  
Stars

MAR 2  
7 & 9:30PM



JD Souther &  
Karla Bonoff

MAR 4-6  
7PM



The Gibson  
Brothers  
w/ special guest  
Chicago Farmer

MAR 7  
7PM



Mason  
Jennings  
w/Lena Elizabeth

MAR 8  
7 & 10PM



The Earls of  
Leicester

MAR 9  
7 & 9:30PM



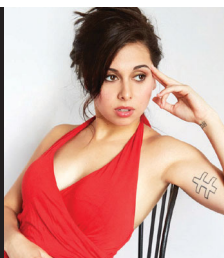
Kurt Elling

MAR 10  
7 & 9PM



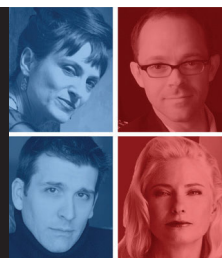
Veronica  
Swift w/The  
Benny Green  
Trio

MAR 11  
7 & 9PM



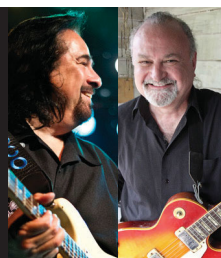
Jacques  
Brel: When  
We Have Only  
Love

MAR 12  
7PM



Tinsley  
Ellis & Coco  
Montoya

MAR 13  
7 & 9PM



Annie Mack  
w/Waltzing on  
Waves

MAR 14  
7PM



Jay Young  
& The Lyric  
Factory

MAR 15  
7PM



The  
Subdudes

MAR 16-17  
7PM



Average  
White Band

MAR 18-19  
7 & 9PM





BY SUSAN DU

**I. New Kansas**

**M**innesota is changing. In some ways, irreversibly.

The state has warmed 1 to 3 degrees in the last century. We know this despite brutal winters in which schools still close and the poor lose toes, because scientists have been meticulously logging temperatures every day since 1895. Longterm data show that annual averages are on an unrelenting upward march.

The planet's last five years have been the hottest on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). That's left Minnesota to enter unknown territory of increasingly erratic weather.

In 2007, 24 counties sought federal drought assistance due to lack of rain. Two weeks later, a biblical downpour drowned seven others into FEMA disaster areas. Minnesota had never seen simultaneous drought and flooding like that before. Five years later, it happened again.

In 2011, Moorhead briefly tied with California's Death Valley as the hottest, most humid place on earth with a heat index of 134 degrees.

Three years ago, Waseca received 56 inches of annual precipitation, setting a new state record. But last year, nearby Harmony registered four inches more, including rainfall more typical of cities along the Gulf of Mexico.

NOAA now ranks Minneapolis and Mankato as the second- and third-fastest warming cities in the United States.

Last month, state Rep. Jean Wagenius invited a delegation of University of Minnesota scientists went to the Capitol. They bore models created by laboratories around the world, based on billions of calculations from satellites, aircraft, ships, treetops, and farm fields, capable of predicting the trajectory of climate change up to 100 years into the future.

Some of these scientists have been warning Minnesota lawmakers about these models for decades. They were practiced and patient, but blunt.

"It's highly visible to anybody that's got a pair of eyes, but right here in the North American continent, we occupy a piece of American real estate that's seen some of the most profound changes of anywhere in the country," says Mark Seeley. The former University of Minnesota professor's book, *Minnesota Weather Almanac*, includes every significant change in the state's history.

"Every incremental change in the model translates to a highly amplified change in our Minnesota backyard. That can't be overstated."

Lakes have begun to freeze later in the year and thaw sooner. Longer growing

# MINNESOTA MELTING



OUR STATE BEGINS  
ITS DESCENT TOWARD  
AN UNRECOGNIZABLE FUTURE

ICE SCULPTURE BY MINNESOTA ICE. PHOTO BY COLLEEN GUENTHER.





BRIAN PETERSON/STAR TRIBUNE

Northeastern Minnesota moose are casualties of the expanding range of ticks.

periods come hand in hand with voracious new pests, deadly parasites, and toxic algae. The boreal forest is receding, taking with it the animals that have come to represent the wild north.

U of M professor Bonnie Keeler says that in 30 years, Faribault in summertime will feel like places more than 500 miles to the south—the equivalent of moving the city 315 feet each day.

By 2100, Minnesota will become the new Kansas, with the loss of one-third of its native species, scientists say. If nothing is done to curb current levels of CO2 emission, Minnesota could be up to Grand Marais in savannah.

## II. Goodbye Loon

W e're about to witness a remarkable change, from the two million acres of boreal forest in the Arrowhead, to the broadleaf woods and fertile prairies of the central and south.

When University of Minnesota ecologist Lee Frelich walked the state's north woods 30 years ago, the area was a crisp fortress of jack pine and black spruce. Moose numbered 12,000. Over the years, deciduous tree seedlings invaded. When he takes Highway 169 to Ely in the fall these days, there are so many orange and yellow bursts on the landscape that he would no longer call it boreal, a proper snow forest composed of evergreen conifers.

Minnesota is the only one of the 48 contiguous states to have large swaths of this biome, but our grasp on it is weakening.

Frelich's Ph.D. students spent the last several years wading through the living laboratory of the Boundary Waters, comparing new growth on the forest floor to mature species in the canopy. They discovered that red maple, not native to this forest, make up most seedlings in certain places.

Spruce, fir, paper birch, and quaking aspen will all decline rapidly in the next decade, Frelich predicts. They're already under stress, as northern Minnesota is warming twice as fast as southern Minnesota.

Soon they'll contract disease. They'll die in heatwaves, drought, and springs that come too early, forcing them out of dormancy.

Increasing warmth makes the difference between boreal and temperate forest. But it's dryness that will propel the subsequent prairie invasion.

Minnesota's winters are warming 13 times faster than its summers. But climate models show summers catching up. When that happens, evaporation will outstrip precipitation, and the climate will dry, allowing grassland to push northward.

By 2070 most of the state could be prairie—including two-thirds of the Boundary Waters, leaving the forest-prairie border somewhere between Ely and Grand Marais.

It is heartbreaking, Frelich says, to know that the woods Minnesotans loved will exit the state.

"We'll just have to make sure it's the best savannah it can be," he says. "Not a bunch of invasive species. We'll have to move some of the plants from our little tiny savannah remnants in southern Minnesota up there. But you know, if that's

what happens, we'll just have to do the best we can."

Loss of habitat kicks off a chain reaction in the exodus of native wildlife. Lynx will leave for Canada while bobcats, typical of Mexico, take their place. The magnificent moose—down to a quarter of its 1980s population and exempt from hunting since 2013—may disappear as rising temperatures beckon more of the same parasites responsible for killing them off.

Cold-water fish are being squeezed into the narrow habitat between the upper layers of sun-baked lakes and their oxygen-depleted depths. As smaller species perish, so do the walleye that prey on them. In the

north central resort towns where business owners and tribes have long relied on the health of fish, having less to go around has already elevated finger-pointing between neighbors.

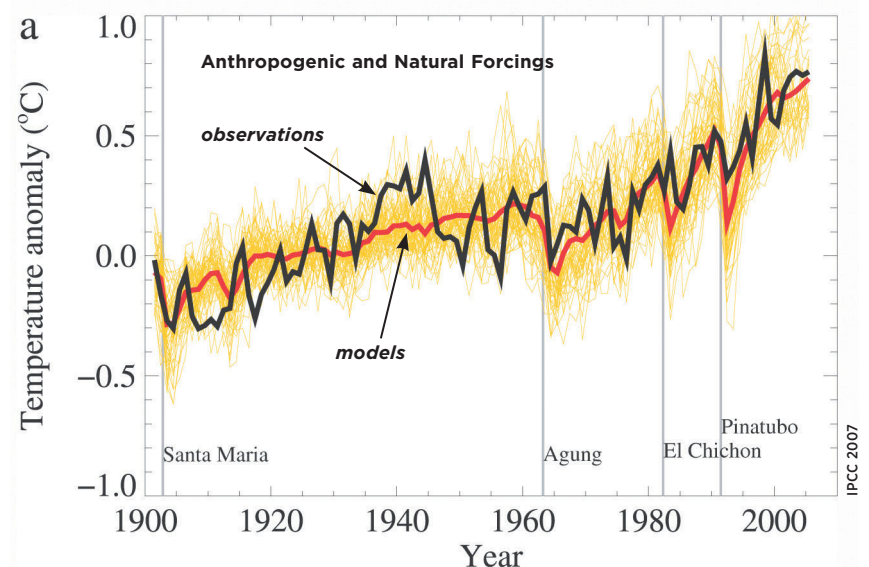
The National Audubon Society predicts that loons will abandon Minnesota by 2080 for colder climes.

As wildlife retreats, invasive pests advance. Scientists studying the North Pole theorize that the melting of Arctic permafrost will release an onslaught of zombie pathogens. But the more immediate threat to Minnesota is the growing range of ticks and mosquitos and the infectious diseases they carry, like Lyme and West Nile.

Warm, stagnating waters gorged with urban discharge and rural fertilizer runoff create the perfect conditions for deadly algae blooms to interrupt Minnesota's favorite summer pastimes. These floating gluts of toxin can mass murder fish and cause neurological impairment in people. But because it's impossible to tell harmful blooms from the benign by sight, dead dogs are usually the first indication that something's very wrong.

In 2010 and again in 2012, children waded into a Stillwater lake infested with a parasite called *Naegleria fowleri*. It climbed their nasal cavities, entering the frontal lobe of the brain, where it fed until the children died.

*Naegleria fowleri* is so rare that there's virtually no chance of contracting it, but those who do almost never survive. And because they are more routinely seen in the tropical freshwaters of Texas and Florida, their incursion into a lake as far north as Minnesota is a mystery. Kansas is the only other Midwestern state to have ever seen a case. The American Public Health Association postulates that warming waters will increase the risk of *Naegleria fowleri* farther north.



Actual global warming over the past century compared with model simulations



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<b>MAR 20</b> <b>CHILDREN OF BODOM</b> W/ SWALLOW THE SUN & MORE 	<b>MAR 21</b> <b>DOOBIE</b> W/ KRASH MINATI & MORE 	<b>MAR 21</b> <b>MEMBA</b> W/ LOCAL SUPPORT 	<b>MAR 22</b> <b>DIESELBOY</b> HEART OF DARKNESS TOUR 
<b>MAR 23</b> <b>KEYS N KRATES</b> DJ SET 	<b>MAR 28</b> <b>T-PAIN</b> 1-UP TOUR 	<b>MAR 29</b> <b>BARONESS &amp; DEAFHEAVEN</b> W/ ZEAL & ARDOR 	<b>MAR 29</b> <b>LUCA LUSH</b> [RESCHEDULED] 
<b>MAR 30</b> <b>ZOMBOY</b> W/ SPACE LACES & MORE 	<b>MAR 31</b> <b>MILKK</b> & THE ORPHAN THE POET 	<b>APR 04</b> <b>POGMAN</b> W/ CHIME 	<b>APR 05</b> <b>CRANKDAT</b> W/ LOCAL SUPPORT 

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BRIAN PETERSON/STAR TRIBUNE

### III. Rural anxiety, urban morbidity

A significant portion of the population has long dismissed evidence of ecological transition. Some believe Minnesota will benefit from this fall of the cards with a longer growing season.

Indeed, some effects of climate change have been helpful to farmers. For example, more of the state has become suitable for planting since 1950.

But a longer growing period also means increased threats of insect infestation, University of Minnesota soil scientist Jessica Gutknecht testified at the Capitol. Winter's freeze ray is supposed to eradicate aphid and rootworm eggs, but when the lows don't get low for long enough, Minnesota's pests survive to feast on crops.

The state's also seeing more frequent mega-storms and intervening dry spells, according to U of M meteorologist Mark Seeley. In times of irregular precipitation, farm communities and cities alike endure disasters that seem out of step with the Midwest.

The Great Duluth Flood of 2012 wrought \$100 million in property damage. Bridges crumbled. Zoo animals drowned. Cars tumbled into sinkholes that cleaved roads in two.

Last October, again historic waves and gales raging up to 86 miles per hour battered St. Louis County as Lake Superior "turned against the community," wrote then-Gov. Mark Dayton in a letter to FEMA. Storm-surge flooding destroyed Duluth's signature boardwalk and heaved railroad tracks and sidewalks, exposing rebar and electrical lines. The business district stood in two feet of water.

By that time, Dayton had spent \$8.7 million on eight natural disasters affecting 20 counties and one tribal nation. He'd already begged FEMA for \$21 million to repair damage from summer floods.

"The state of Minnesota has already borne a very large measure of disaster costs in 2018. All this activity has exhausted our

Lee Frelich, director of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology, visits trees in southern Minnesota.

disaster assistance contingency account," the governor wrote.

Lower-income communities are bound to reap the lion's share of climate change's casualties, says the University of Minnesota's Dr. Laalitha Surapaneni.

Globally, this manifests in things like record-breaking Indian summers, killing thousands for want of air conditioning. Or Bangladeshi refugees fanning across the subcontinent as rising sea levels swallow coastal towns. Or Puerto Rico going nearly a year without power.

Locally, it means the metro area's highest rates of asthma hospitalization can be seen in north Minneapolis. On increasingly hot summer days, car exhaust and pollutants from the area's heavy industries stagnate and bake together in the sunlight to create ozone, which triggers asthma attacks.

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, north Minneapolis air holds 80 percent more lead—linked to neurological underdevelopment in children—than the national standard.

Despite increasingly dire reports from the medical community, Surapaneni stays positive because, "As physicians, we take care of people who are dying from horrible causes every day," she says. "We have to deal with grief every day, and there's no antidote to grief, only action. You cannot give up. This is our only home."

### IV. The fractured reality of climate change

The hellish lows of February's polar vortex left parts of Minnesota colder than Alaska. Meanwhile, Australia experienced record-shattering heat as roads melted and bats dropped dead from trees.

"What the hell is going on with Global Warming?" tweeted President Donald Trump, who once accused the Chinese of










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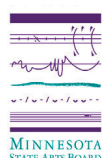
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inventing climate change as a hoax. "Please come back fast, we need you!"

Within a week, temperatures in Minnesota rebounded 75 degrees before hurtling into a second week of intense cold and snow.

Though it seems counterintuitive, some scientists are asking whether these bitter outbreaks might increase in the future as a result of climate change, says University of Minnesota atmospheric scientist Tracy Twine.

The polar vortex, a swirling storm contained in the icy northern cap of the world, will often become less stable in winter, breathing currents of Arctic air down over parts of the United States with the jet stream. And recently the jet stream—which forms a boundary between the cold air of the north and the hot air of the equator—has become wavier, as opposed to its typical oval shape encircling the North Pole. Understanding the relationship between this phenomenon and the rapidly warming Arctic is an emerging area of research.

When scientists updated legislators on the state of Minnesota's climate change last month, it wasn't because the state is necessarily on the precipice of catastrophe.

Republicans typically don't invite scientists to talk when they're in power—even those allegedly capable of debunking global warming. Three years ago, all but one



ALEX KORMANN/STAR TRIBUNE

Republican member of the House refused to acknowledge that the burning of fossil fuels drives climate change.

In the 2018 election, Republican gubernatorial candidate Jeff Johnson, formerly of the Hennepin County Board, claimed there's no scientific consensus on the human impact of climate change, despite general agreement among 97 percent of scientists and 200 scientific organizations around the world.

Jim Newberger, the former state representative from Becker who ran for the U.S. Senate, speculated that global warming could be explained by natural cycles in the sun. While the sun does have an 11-year cycle in which it alternately emits slightly more or less energy, it accounts for only a minuscule change in the earth's temperature.

There are other natural cycles that deniers cite frequently, but vaguely. There's a 40,000-year cycle caused by the slight variation in

Mora, a small town in central Minnesota, experienced flash flooding in the summer of 2018. Residents swam in the streets and kayaked down the highway.

the tilt of the earth, a 20,000-year cycle connected to the wobble of its spin-axis, and a 100,000-year cycle that depends on its orbit. Each cycle determines how much sunlight hits the high latitudes of the northern hemisphere, initiating and ending ice ages.

According to these natural trends, the earth began to cool down about 5,000 years ago, but abruptly reversed course several decades ago due to man-made global warming, according to the National Climate Assessment.

People forget that scientists don't rush to conjecture. Their views are heavily filtered by skepticism, says Twine. "We don't believe just anything that comes out of the computer. We look at it over and over again. We run it a different way to see if we get a different answer."

## V. Choose your own adventure

About 125 years ago, Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius calculated that doubling carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would result in four degrees Celsius of global temperature



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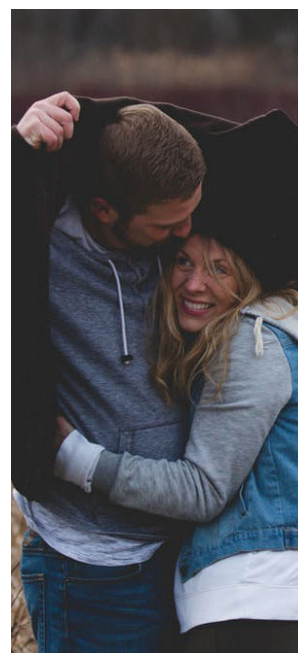
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change. He did the math by hand, taking two years to arrive at this single number. The smartest people in the world have not been able to debunk his model.

Still, most assume that climate science is new.

In 2012, North Carolina passed a law to suppress scientists' predictions of rising sea levels. The state is particularly exposed to hurricanes because its low-lying coastline juts into the Atlantic. Nevertheless, lawmakers claimed that climate models were not credible, so they would not act to fortify seaside towns, designate "hazard zones," or reconsider lucrative development slated for those areas.

Six years later, the state was ill prepared for Hurricane Florence, which killed 50 people and left 3 million homes in the dark as neighborhoods submerged and toxic coal ash pits overflowed.

Even if people can't visualize science, they do learn from disaster. In 2015, the Pew Research Center found that just 42 percent of Americans were concerned about climate change. By 2018, that number had risen to 59 percent, including roughly one-third of Republicans. According to Yale University's biannual climate opinion map, Texans, Floridians, and people along America's shores find global warming disturbing regardless of political affiliation. It's the landlocked Midwest that cares the least.

Oft-recited benchmarks like 2080 or 2100 give climate change the air of distant possibility. But if scientists sound agitated, it's because they're sounding a clarion call that humans have a small window in which to act before possibilities become inevitabilities.

The earth has warmed an average of 1 degree C since the dawn of the industrial age. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a global consortium of scientific organizations, says there's no stopping it from reaching 1.5, because a carbon dioxide molecule can stay in the atmosphere for 20 to 200 years, and global

Government buildings and businesses were submerged in the great Duluth flood of 2012.

warming would continue for some time even if all emissions ground to a halt today.

Instead, scientists are chiefly concerned with halting emissions before warming reaches 2 degrees C. At that rate, the Arctic will no longer have any sea ice in summer, the last of the world's coral reefs will die, and oceans will lose one-quarter of their species. Humanity has 11 years to act.

Injecting hope, IPCC Chair Lee Hoesung wrote in a widely published editorial that he believes it is physically and technologically possible for our species to limit warming to 1.5 degrees C. But the variable is human action. Everything needs to be electric, and everything needs to come from carbon-neutral energy.

The world's 195 nations seemed to think that was possible in 2016 when they signed the Paris Accord to drastically cut fossil fuel use. But soon after, President Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States—responsible for 14 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. His decision will become final in November.

In lieu of federal leadership, a confederacy of 18 states and Puerto Rico have committed to observing the Paris Accord anyway. More than 100 American cities have pledged to go 100 percent clean energy. And two weeks ago, Minnesota legislators introduced a bill to get the whole state on track, following the leads of Hawaii, California, and New Jersey.

Switching to renewable energy would be a major driver of the American economy while simultaneously contributing to conservation, says Frelich, the forest ecologist.

"Because literally what we're doing, at the global scale it's like coming home from work each night and taking a hammer and chopping out a piece of the wall until nothing is left. And you would never do that to your own house." **CF**

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BY SARAH BRUMBLE

What does one wear to a 5 p.m. solo Valentine's Day reservation at one of the most subtly exclusive dining experiences of the year?

A ball gown? A track suit? A Ronald McDonald costume? When planning one's approach at a joint known to roll out a "literal red carpet at some locations" (per the company), nothing seems off-limits.

But when my hour came, there I stood, tugging on the doors of the White Castle at Lake Street and Blaisdell Avenue—locked out, and pleased I was not in a ball gown.

Over and over, I scanned signs that said, "Lobby Closed for Reservations Only, Drive Thru Open." Except I did have a reservation. And all the doors were locked. To be fair, the normal way of approaching White Castle is through the drive-thru (duh) and I hadn't yet tried that window....

Just as I began to turn away, giving up all for lost, the warmest host I've ever met poked her head out of the door and lilted, "Do you have a reservation?" thus initiating one of the weirdest, most charming experiences of my dining life.

If the average American is set to spend just shy of \$200 per person on Valentine's Day this year, who is eating at White Castle? Also, with only one possible reservation time remaining a week in advance—at 5 p.m., no less—who is dining at White Castle with the sun still riding high in the sky? And how does this subset of people behave? I don't know them. Would I be seated at a communal table, as punishment for my gall to show up stag?

To make matters even more strange, a little number-crunching via OpenTable (the platform through which White Castle coordinates their reservations) suggests a table at the home of the Crave Case may just be one of the most elusive "gets" in the city: The dining room at the Lake and Blaisdell location contains a mere 12 spots, each seating four adults (a stretch IRL), and they're only open for five hours.

That means dining at White Castle for Valentine's Day is a rarer brand of lighting in a paper cup than people realize.

The aforementioned glowing host showed me to a table in the middle row of the dining area—set for four, despite it being, uh, just me. It was adorned with a bright red tea light and pale purple roses. At my back sat a young couple dressed in athleisure, who'd brought along their

# LOVE CASTLE

A solo Valentine's Day over steamed burgers



SARAH BRUMBLE

brand new babe-in-arms. Directly to my left was a double date of retirees: gray-ing, wearing glasses, in fine dress of the professorial and Liz Claiborne ilk, all in reds and pinks. One man wore a bow tie with sparkles.

Aside from the seven of us, the dining room was void of customers. The candle-and-fluorescent vibe was... comically intimate.

My server, Rae, was perfectly attentive to my needs without being overly involved, just as any great server would be.

I was, admittedly, all over the place while ordering; it's hard to order from

White Castle while stone-cold sober, OK? No one needs a size-medium soda if you're dining in-house, with free refills, but that's easy to forget outside the familiar confines of one's car. I inexplicably requested a (delicious!) breakfast waffle slider with sausage, despite having eaten waffles for actual breakfast that morning. There may also have been (whoops!) a couple of double cheese sliders because I can't read and all I wanted was cheese? Then I threw in some chicken rings, because no one can say no to chicken rings.

At some point, a man from back-of-house leaned over a counter, whipped

out his phone, and began live-videoing the dining room. To whom? I don't know.

In between it all, there was dancing. On the part of the staff.

"You like White Castle's food?" I asked Alice, a server.

"Oh yes ma'am. My mom worked at White Castle when I was a kid; she used to bring home Crave Cases of sliders with cheese for us. I still love them."

"Does it feel like comfort food for you?"

"Yes ma'am," she laughed.

"Do you like doing these special Valentine's events?"

"They're fun! I wish we could turn the music up, though."

After tables had paid, the glorious hostess offered tables cupcakes; given the lack of cupcakes on the menu, this gesture read as nothing short of homespun kindness.

The fast food chain's annual tradition of hosting sit-down, table-side service began way back in 1991, before Al Gore claimed to have invented the internet, when smart phones weren't yet a twinkle in Steve Jobs' eye, and nobody was doing shit "for the 'grams." What started as an idea by a couple of regional higher-ups to make the day's celebration of communal love a bit more special has blossomed into today's full-on mylar balloon, rose-strewn tablecloth spectacular. In the meantime, the tradition weathered the mid-'90s onslaught of cynicism, the 2000s tongue-in-cheek ironic "love" of kitsch, into whatever hellscape we're surviving today—a vapid, social-media-fueled simulation of the real, perhaps?

White Castle's annual presentation of dinnerware, printed menus, hand-cut hearts decorating the walls, and genuine enthusiasm is built on a foundation of actual charm, predating whatever our broken minds think they're up to. What's kept this quirky tradition going all these years is an overwhelming feeling of warmth and love... in an unexpected locale. It might just be the grandfather of all pop-ups.

Before I took my leave, Alice and I snapped a couple photos together—on both her phone and mine—in front of White Castle's equivalent of a Valentine's step-and-repeat. The last thing I heard while the door swung shut behind me were calls of, "See you next year!"

I'd be surprised if I don't turn up, even though I'm still burping onions as I type.



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## FOOD

### VICINITY COFFEE HAS ACTUALLY CLOSED FOR GOOD

We've got bad news for Vicinity Coffee regulars who have been "keeping calm," per posted instructions, about the shop's seemingly temporary closure.

"Vicinity Coffee closed permanently on January 26th," says manager Ryan Sarno. "The 'keep calm, we are refinishing the floors' signs were put up by the landlord, and are only accurate insofar as they describe the building in general."

This is the second quiet closure for the coffee shop in about a year; the nearby Kingfield Vicinity bowed out last winter after a three-year run on Nicollet. At the time, Sarno described closing that location as "an opportunity for Vicinity to simplify a little and focus on being the best version of ourselves. By concentrating our talents and energies on the original, Lyndale Ave. shop, I think we will be even more successful in what we strive to offer to Minneapolis."

And they did take time to retool and refocus: The Vicinity Wine Bar opened last summer, with house-made pastries and paninis and small plates.

There is some good news for those currently under-cafeinated in south Uptown: Sarno says a peer Minneapolis coffee shop will open at 3350 Lyndale in the coming months, but that it will not be associated with Vicinity. —EMILY CASSEL

### GRAND AVENUE'S D'AMICO & SONS TO CLOSE

There's just one Sunday left to take advantage of D'Amico & Sons' kids-eat-free deal—in St. Paul, at least. After 22 years at 975 Grand Ave., that location will close this Sunday, February 24, according to the Pioneer Press.

This is the second closure in about as many years for the family-friendly Minnesota chain. Its original location in Uptown also held it down for two decades, opening in 1994 before closing at the end of 2016.

"After 22 great years in St. Paul we want to thank our customers... we hope all of our guests will continue to dine at our other locations," owner Larry D'Amico said in a statement to the PiPress.

And those other locations give you plenty of options for getting your fast-casual Italian on: The PiPress reports that D'Amico & Sons' Edina, Minneapolis, U of M campus, Roseville, Golden Valley, and Wayzata locations are still open (along with an outpost in Naples, should you find yourself in Florida with a hankering for chicken parm). —EMILY CASSEL

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89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**SON VOLT**



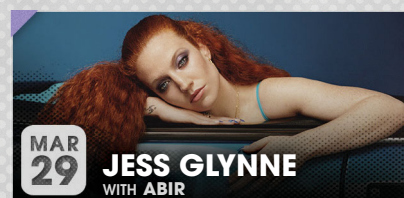
FEB 23  
GO 95.3 AND 3WAY MARKETING GROUP PRESENT  
**HEY MA!**  
A THROWBACK 2000s PARTY  
FT. ADVANCE, SOPHIA ERIS



MAR 01  
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**I'M WITH HER**  
WINTER TOUR 2019  
WITH MIPSO



MAR 16  
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**FLIP PHONE XXL SPRING BREAK STARRING FARRAH MOAN (RuPaul's Drag Race)**  
WITH PHI PHI O'HARA, TYGRA, VINCENT THE DESTROYER, SUNNY KIRIYAMA



MAR 29  
**JESS GLYNNE**  
WITH ABIR



APR 11  
On the Rocks Tour  
WITH THE MOVEMENT, THE ELOVATERS



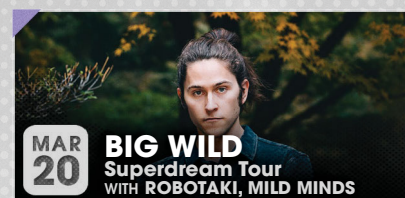
APR 28  
**TAKING BACK SUNDAY**  
WITH THE MAINE  
NIGHT 1 SOLD OUT!



FEB 24  
GO 95.3 PRESENTS  
**ACTION BRONSON**  
WHITE BRONCO TOUR  
WITH ROC MARCIANO, MEYHEIM LAUREN



MAR 02  
**MARDI GRAS IN MPLS FT. COWBOY MOUTH AND DRIVIN' N CRYIN'**  
WITH JACK BRASS BAND



MAR 20  
**BIG WILD**  
Superdream Tour  
WITH ROBOTAKI, MILD MINDS



MAR 30  
**TREVOR HALL**  
The Moon Sun Tour  
WITH DIRTWIRE



APR 18  
On Cinema  
**TIM HEIDECKER AND GREGG TURKINGTON**  
On Cinema  
At The Cinema Live!



APR 30  
**FOALS**  
WITH PREOCCUPATIONS, OMNI



FEB 27  
**AURORA**  
WITH TALOS



MAR 08  
**YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND AND HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES**  
WITH FIRESIDE COLLECTIVE



MAR 22  
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**BETTER OBLIVION COMMUNITY CENTER**  
WITH LALA LALA, CHRISTIAN LEE HUTSON



APR 01  
**EPIK HIGH**

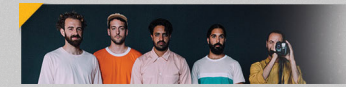


APR 23  
**EELS**



MAY 02  
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**SUPERORGANISM**

## PALACE THEATRE UP NEXT



FEB 24  
**YOUNG THE GIANT**  
MIRROR MASTER TOUR  
W/ SURE SURE



MAR 04  
**JAMES BLAKE**  
W/ KHUSHI



MAR 09  
**THE REVIVALISTS**  
Take Good Care Tour  
W/ RAYLAND BAXTER



MAR 16  
**VINCE STAPLES:**  
SMILE, YOU'RE ON CAMERA  
W/ JPEGMAFIA, TRILL SAMMY



MAR 19  
**BOB WEIR AND WOLF BROS**

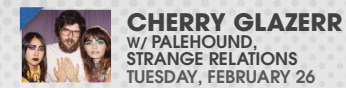


MAR 21  
**TORI KELLY**  
THE ACOUSTIC SESSIONS

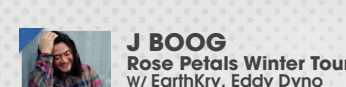


MAR 23  
**ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES**  
W/ MICHAEL NAU (COTTON JONES)

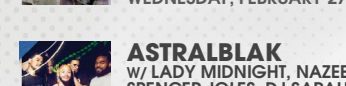
## FINE LINE UP NEXT



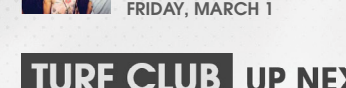
**CHERRY GLAZERR**  
W/ PALEHOUND, STRANGE RELATIONS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26



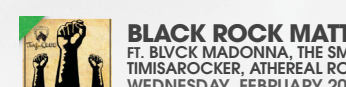
**J BOOG**  
Rose Petals Winter Tour  
W/ EarthKry, Eddy Dyno  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27



**ASTRALBLAK**  
W/ LADY MIDNIGHT, NAZEEM & SPENCER JOLES, DJ SARAH WHITE  
FRIDAY, MARCH 1



**BLACK ROCK MATTERS**  
FT. BLVCK MADONNA, THE SMOKES, TIMISAROCKER, ATHEREAL ROSE  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20



**ROBBIE FULKS & LINDA GAIL LEWIS**  
W/ BETH BOMBARA  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21



**MIYA FOLICK**  
W/ BARRIE  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

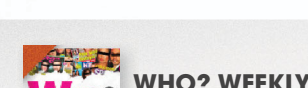


**THE GLENRUSTLES**  
(Reunion Show)  
W/ DARYL TRANA'S PEASANTS 2.0 UK JR., COUNTRY MIKE SUADE  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

## AROUND TOWN



**TOKEN**  
Between Somewhere Tour  
W/ KUR  
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20



**WHO? WEEKLY**  
THE CEDAR  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

## COMING SOON



FRI FEB 22  
**BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS**  
WITH BLUE WATER HIGHWAY BAND  
PALACE THEATRE \$35+ / 7PM DOORS / 18+



89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**BEIRUT**  
WITH HELADO NEGRO  
PALACE THEATRE \$41+ / 6:30PM DOORS / 18+



GO 96.3 PRESENTS  
**ANDREW MCMAHON IN THE WILDERNESS**  
UPSIDE DOWN FLOWERS TOUR  
WITH FLOR, GRIZFOLK  
FIRST AVENUE \$35 / 6PM DOORS / 18+



89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**MIKE DOUGHTY**  
PLAYS SOUL COUGHING'S RUBY VROOM  
25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
WITH WHEATUS  
FIRST AVENUE \$30 / 7PM DOORS / 18+

## JUST ANNOUNCED



THU MAY 23 & FRI MAY 24  
**CHROMEO**  
FIRST AVENUE  
\$30/\$35 DOS / 8PM DOORS / 18+

## 7TH ST ENTRY UP NEXT

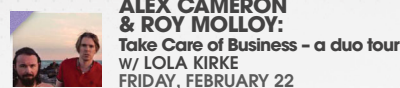
🏆 BEST CONCERT VENUE  
- CITY PAGES 2018



**KIKAGAKU MOYO**  
W/ WEED  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21



**BAILEN**  
W/ ZAQ BAKER  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25



**ALEX CAMERON & ROY MOLLOY:**  
Take Care of Business - a duo tour  
W/ LOLA KIRKE  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22



**MIKE KROL**  
W/ STEVE ADAMYK BAND,  
SUBTLE BEAST  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26



**WELLES**  
W/ LATE NIGHT FIGHTS  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23



**ANDY FRASCO & THE U.N.**  
W/ WILD ADRIATIC  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27



**SHRIMPNOSE AND K.RAYDIO**  
...And The World Weeps Release Party  
W/ NAZEEM & SPENCER JOLES, DESTINY ROBERTS, RADIO AHLEE, FALLS  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24



**PARKER GISPERT**  
(of The Whigs)  
W/ SAM CASSIDY,  
ANDREW LEAHEY  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

FOR MORE INFORMATION, FULL CALENDAR, AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT [FIRST-AVENUE.COM](http://FIRST-AVENUE.COM)  
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# A LIST

**FRIDAY** *Cash Cab's* Ben Bailey rolls into town p. 24

**SATURDAY** Insight alleviates cabin fever with beer p. 25

**SUNDAY** Mucci's is making doughnuts p. 27

801 Gallery features landscapes four different ways.



MARK BARLOW

## WEDNESDAY 2.20

### COMEDY

#### TIM HARMSTON

ACME COMEDY CO.

Onstage, Tim Harmston covers relationships, current events, and political humor. But it's when sports comes up in his act that he glows a bit. "I was doing a show in Chicago and my family was there," says Harmston. "One of them said, 'You're happiest onstage when you're talking about sports and doing your sports jokes.'" The Wisconsin native, who started his

standup in the Twin Cities, is indeed a genuine sports fan. That includes football (Green Bay Packers) and hockey (Minnesota Wild). "If the Twins or Brewers are in contention, I'll also follow baseball," he says. "But I don't go to spring training or anything." He may be ready for some baseball sooner than that, though. "This past Super Bowl left me thinking, 'Yeah, I'm good with football for a while.' It was such a bad game and a bad halftime show. Usually, I'm jonesing for football immediately after the Super Bowl, but this year I'm thinking I could use a break." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30

p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393.

**Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

### ART/GALLERY

#### PAINTINGS BY SHANNON ESTLUND

HEWING HOTEL

Kolman & Pryor Gallery pops out of Northeast and into the North Loop as part of its ongoing partnership with the Hewing. For the past two years, the gallery has collaborated with the hotel to create exhibitions both for guests and the public. Continuing the tradition,

the duo launches its first exhibition of 2019 with the work of Shannon Estlund. Estlund's paintings, which feature fantastical interpretations of the Twin Cities' natural landscapes, match the Hewing's own "lakes and woods" style. The opening reception will include tasty bites and drinks in the hotel's comfy bar area, complete with fireplaces. Estlund will lead a tour of her work, located in spaces throughout the hotel. The reception runs from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, February 20. Free. 300 N. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 866-501-3300. **Through March 31 —SHEILA REGAN**

## THURSDAY 2.21

### THEATER

#### INTO THE WOODS

OPEN BOOK/NORTH GARDEN THEATER

With a goal of introducing theater to nontraditional audiences, Ten Thousand Things has consistently chosen works meant to captivate in new and surprising ways. Their new staging of musical standard *Into the Woods*, the fantastical work by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, starts with the fairytale storyline of a married couple whose hopes to conceive a child have been dashed by a witch's curse. They go on a journey to collect four magical objects to break the spell. Regardless of the imaginary world these characters inhabit, the empathetic longing at the core of the tale has an undeniable power to enchant, especially when evoked by the seasoned direction of Marcela Lorca (recently named TTT's artistic director). Boasting an ensemble drawn from some of the most acclaimed performers in the Twin Cities, *Into the Woods* possesses enough spellbinding potential to convince even the most dubious audiences of the bewitching power of theater. Find tickets and more info at [tenthousandthings.org](http://tenthousandthings.org). 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; 4 p.m. Sundays. Shows are at Open Book (1011 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-215-2650) February 21-23; February 28 through March 3, March 17, and March 21-24; shows are at North Garden Theater (929 Seventh St. W., St.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ►**



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## A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

Paul; 651-321-4769) February 24, March 7-10, and March 14-16. \$30; pay-as-able under 30 (\$10 minimum).  
**Through March 24 —BRAD RICHASON**

### ART/GALLERY

#### HOW TO BECOME LOST

GALLERY 71

Leslie Barlow continues to win accolades for paintings that explore, with grace and integrity, the politics of race, representation, and identity. Here she curates an exhibition showcasing work by five artists exploring their own methods and missions for creativity. Using a variety of media, the artists (Sayge Carroll, Meg Murphy, Lamar Peterson, Jacob Aaron Schroeder, and Maggie Thompson) portray the ways in which they lose themselves in their art-making in order to find their way. Labor and loss, the intricacies of relationships, and the textures of materiality all figure into their work. There will be an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, February 21, and an artists' talk at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4. Free. 7141 France Ave. S., Edina; 952-835-5000.

**Through April 20 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

### ART/MUSEUM

#### BIIDAABAN: FIRST LIGHT

WALKER ART CENTER

The past and future collide in *Biidaaban*, a new virtual-reality world of indigenous futurism. The title references the Anishinaabemowin word meaning "the first light before dawn." In the piece, filmmaker Lisa Jackson, an Anishinaabe artist from Toronto, has designed a future version of the city taken over by nature. To create the work, Jackson draws on the past, using documentation and photography of Toronto from 100

years ago, as well as the future, through her time working with indigenous youth and discussing their hopes and dreams for the coming years. As a result, she has made a world that breaks free from notions that indigenous communities exist only in the past. At the Walker's free event, the museum will have three VR stations where people can experience the seven-minute work. The event is part of a month-long series, INDigenesis: Indigenous Filmmakers, Past and Present. 5 to 9 p.m. Free. 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. —SHEILA REGAN

## FRIDAY 2.22

### ART/GALLERY

#### JIM DENOMIE: STANDING ROCK PAINTINGS

BOCKLEY GALLERY

Vibrant, visceral, and rife with a singular iconography that encapsulates the violence at the heart of the Dakota Access Pipeline controversy, Jim Denomie's artworks unflinchingly tell the story of inherent racism that continues to live across the country—particularly, in this case, in the Dakotas. This exhibition includes three large-scale works. No more are needed. With his fantastical style and eerie color palette, Denomie, who is Anishinaabe, unflinchingly captures the layers of brutality, fury, and disbelief that white supremacy gives rise to. There are also infusions of sardonic humor and mysticism, which serve to highlight the violence at the fore. There will be an opening reception on Friday, February 22, from 6 to 8 p.m., and an artist's talk on Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m. 2123 W. 21st St., Minneapolis; 612-377-4669.

**Through April 6 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

Meg Murphy and other artists lose themselves at Gallery 71.



MEG MURPHY, *FUCK*



Jim Denomie captures the vibe at Standing Rock



JIM DENOMIE, DOG DAY AFTERNOON

## COMEDY

### BEN BAILEY

NEW HOPE CINEMA GRILL

While he may be best known for sitting behind the wheel as the host of *Cash Cab*, Ben Bailey has spent more than two decades working in comedy. "I'd love for people to know me as much from my standup as they do from *Cash Cab*," he says. "But *Cash Cab* gets them in the door." Before you label him as the Pat Sajak of comedy, you might be interested to learn that he's recorded two specials and has a third coming to Netflix this spring. But he still has his TV fans. "People still yell things out, like 'Red Light Challenge!' or just 'Cash Cab!' or pretty much anything like that. It's flattering, but it can also get a little annoying." In addition to touring the country with standup, Bailey has been pursuing acting, having appeared on everything from *30 Rock* to *Law & Order*. "It's funny, because comedy has become my day job that allows me to pursue other things," he notes. Bailey also recently made the move to working behind the camera, writing and producing his own video shorts. "I created a video called *Badly Written Action Man—B.W.A.M.*—who is an action hero with horribly written lines," he explains. With plans for more filmmaking and acting, Bailey is way more than just his cab. 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$25-\$35. 2749 Winnetka Ave. N., New Hope; 763-417-0017.

Through Saturday —PATRICK STRAIT

SATURDAY 2.23

## BEER/FESTIVAL

### 10TH ANNUAL WINTER BEER DABBLER

MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

Remember what beer you were drinking in 2009? That's when the Winter Beer Dabbler began. Now celebrating its 10th year, the festival will offer more than 160

breweries pouring more than 500 beers at the State Fairgrounds this winter. While that alone would help anyone brave the elements, what sets the Winter Dabbler apart from other beer fests is its outdoor spirit. Whether the day calls for snow, sleet, or sunshine, thousands of thirsty 'sotans will sample dark beers, hazy IPAs, and mouth-puckering sours, all while live bands, outdoor games, and a silent disco add to the party. The homebrew competition will attract beer diehards, sports fans can enjoy activities like keg throws and Hammerschlagen, and foodies will be drawn to the multitudes of food trucks and meat and cheese samples. There's also something for those who don't like the cold: a heated pavilion, which houses a few of the many, many breweries on hand, along with warm food staples. Even in the dead of winter, the Minnesota State Fairgrounds is the place to be. 21+. Find tickets and more info at [beerdabbler.com](http://beerdabbler.com). 3 to 6:30 p.m. \$50; \$70 early access tickets at 2 p.m.; \$20 designated driver. 1265 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul; 651-288-4400. —LOREN GREEN

## THEATER

### IPHIGENIA AND OTHER DAUGHTERS

GREMLIN THEATRE

Greek tragedies tend to follow a pattern in which one unpardonable crime leads to a sequence of horrific consequences. The dire fall of Agamemnon, commander of the Greek forces during the Trojan War, exemplifies this. From the sacrifice of his daughter Iphigenia to appease the vengeful gods, to the murderous rage of his queen Clytemnestra, through the revenge of another daughter, Electra, ghastly acts serve as a unifying thread throughout these legendary tales. And yet, despite their critical contributions to the epic narrative, the perspective of women is often trivialized.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 ►



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# Mardi Gras New Orleans Suspects

*Friday Ball with* **Jaedyn James & The Hunger**

*Saturday Ball with* **Mae Simpson Band**

**2019**  
**February 22 & 23**

**Ball & Boil**

*Crawfish*

Doors 8pm  
Music 8:30pm  
21+ \$25

@Bunkers

**MARDI GRAS**  
**AT BUNKER'S BAR & GRILL**  
**WITH NEW ORLEANS SUSPECTS**

**CRAWFISH BOIL - 7PM**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
**NEW ORLEANS SUSPECTS 2 SETS**  
**MAE SIMPSON BAND**

**MARDI GRAS "BALL"**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
**NEW ORLEANS SUSPECTS 2 SETS**  
**JAEDYN JAMES & THE HUNGER**  
JAEDYN JAMES SITS IN WITH NOLA SUSPECTS SET 2

BUNKER'S BAR & GRILL - 761 N Washington Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55401  
MORE INFO & TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BUNKERS OR ONLINE  
BOIL: <https://mardigras-boil.eventbrite.com> BALL: <https://mardigras-ball.eventbrite.com>

# WINTER BLUES FEST

## LOWERTOWN FUNDRAISER FAMOUS DAVE'S SUNDAY, FEB 24



Walter Wolfman Washington & the Roadmasters



DAVINA AND THE VAGABONDS



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## A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

Redressing that omission, playwright Ellen McLaughlin created *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*, giving voice to overlooked figures from the Agamemnon tale (including Chrysothemis and Orestes), providing a new dimension to ancient misfortune. Viewed in the context of the zeitgeist, McLaughlin's work represents a prophetic revelation. Under the award-winning direction of Amber Bjork, this production from Theatre Unbound features an all-female cast and embodies the company's goal of presenting stories from a female point of view. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$18-\$22. 550 Vandalia St., St. Paul; 651-228-7008. **Through March 10 —BRAD RICHASON**

### ART/GALLERY

**JODI REEB, KURT SEABURG, MARK BARLOW, PATRICK PRYOR**

ART AT 801 GALLERY

Landscape as revealed through four distinctive aesthetic perspectives surrounds the visitors of this welcome exhibition. Hung throughout the multilevel atrium, the work fills the spectrum from exquisitely detailed in its representation (Kurt Seaburg) to luminous in its abstraction (Patrick Pryor). Jodi Reeb's recent encaustic work blends both in haunting scenes full of warning and renewal. Mark Barlow's Montana-inspired oil paintings take us through the rivers and woods of the west. The opening reception is on Saturday, February 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. 801 Washington Ave. N., 801 Washington Lofts, Minneapolis; 612-747-2313. **Through June —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

### TV

**SCHITT'S CREEK, UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL**

HISTORIC STATE THEATRE

Dan Levy, son of SCTV alum Eugene Levy, had a thought one day while watching reality TV. What if one of the wealthy families he was watching, say the Kardashians, lost everything and had to live like everybody else? He discussed the concept with his father, and together they developed *Schitt's Creek*. The show premiered on CBC Television in Canada in 2015. It follows the super wealthy Rose family, who find themselves suddenly broke and living in a small town they bought years earlier as a joke birthday present. The series has since gained quite a following worldwide. (In the U.S., it's available through Netflix.) *Schitt's*

*Creek Live: Up Close & Personal* will present the main cast: the two Levys, who portray father and son Johnny and David Rose, along with Catherine O'Hara, who plays mother Moira, and Annie Murphy, who plays David's sister, Alexis. Other cast members may appear as well, in an evening of what the show's producers describe as a "conversation, a few surprises, and some general merriment, hopefully." 8 p.m. \$49-\$104. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. —P.F. WILSON

### BEER

**CABIN FEVER RELIEVER**

INSIGHT BREWING

The last couple of weeks have been rough. Sure, the days are getting longer and a little bit warmer, but we've still got winter for another month (or more). So Insight is doing what it can to get you out of the house. At their Cabin Fever Reliever, you'll find fruity, summery casks such as a strawberry/kiwi lager and a peach brut IPA. The Minneapolis Craft Market will be onsite with a variety of locally made items, and guests can sign up to plant a succulent and score a free henna tattoo. SK Coffee will also be available for those who don't drink but want to hang (or for those who like a little caffeine with their brew). Meanwhile, Mirage will play tunes that reflect the warmer days ahead. Noon to 4 p.m. Free. 2821 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-722-7222. —LOREN GREEN

SUNDAY 2.24

### BARHOPPING/FOOD

**MUCCI'S DOUGHNUTS POP-UP**

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People freaked out when St. Paul Italian eatery Mucci's announced that they wouldn't be making doughnuts on the weekends anymore. There was news coverage, and people posted crying emojis online. Hordes of heartbroken fans braved the Polar Vortex for the last official sale in January. "Holy doughnuts, Bruce! We opened our doors at 8 a.m. to a line of 10,000 people who camped out for hours in the cold!" the Mucci's crew posted on Instagram. There was always a glimmer of hope; Mucci's has hinted that we haven't seen the last of their delicious fried dough. And indeed, they return (briefly) this Sunday for a pop-up at a brewpub. They're keeping mum about the two types of doughnut they'll be making, but we do know that these coveted sweets will be paired with beers, making this event a dream come true for many. Noon to 2 p.m. Free. 248 E. Seventh St., St. Paul; 651-600-3422. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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# KEEP WATCHING

Oscar nominee *Never Look Away* is worth the time



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BY TONY LIBERA

**T**he intersection of art and reality can get complicated. With Oscar nominee *Never Look Away*, that's as much a subject as it is a statement on the movie itself.

The third feature from Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (Academy Award-winner *The Lives of Others*), *Never Look Away* was "inspired by real events" in the life of renowned German painter Gerhard Richter. Yet rather than establish this as an adherent biography, the writer-director fiddles with facts, deviating heavily from reality to present a decades-spanning account of a man named Kurt Barnert instead of Richter.

Why? Because Richter, according to an impressive profile from the New Yorker's Dana Goodyear, didn't want his life story—even fictionalized—made into a movie. This raises plenty of questions about truth, intent, and artistic ethics, issues further complicated by *Never Look Away*'s story and by Richter himself, a man who rose to fame, in large part, by painting other people's photographs.

"I want the truth," Barnert (Tom Schilling) muses, seconds after lying about the people in his paintings. It's difficult to tell if he believes what he's saying, or if he's aware of the irony. This is the joyful culmination of decades of hardship, so maybe Donnersmarck is asking if either of those things matter in the grander scheme. The only clarity with this movie lies in both artists' sense that truth trumps accuracy.

To that effect, *Never Look Away* may as well have gone fully fictitious, though the semibiographical timeline lends itself to an affecting portrait. Donnersmarck begins his version of events in Dresden, 1937. The young Barnert feels the effects of Nazism quicker than most: Soon after his loving aunt Elisabeth (Saskia Rosendahl) takes him to an art museum, she's sent to the hospital with a schizophrenia diagnosis.

As per Nazi policy, Elisabeth is marked for sterilization. She begs the head doctor there, Carl Seeband (Sebastian Koch), to spare her, noticing a little girl's artwork in his office and appealing to his paternal instincts. Unfortunately, Seeband is a hard man and a true believer in eugenics, so Elisabeth is

### NEVER LOOK AWAY

directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck  
Edina Cinema, now playing

promptly operated on and shipped off to her eventual doom. Years later, Barnert, a budding painter, unwittingly crosses paths with Seeband when he falls in love with his daughter (Paula Beer).

*Never Look Away* is difficult to watch. It's frequently heartless, which fits the backdrop, and it clocks in at just over three hours. If expansive, German-language period pieces aren't your cup of tea, this is not the movie for you.

Those willing to spend the time will find this picture to be equal parts challenge and reward. Donnersmarck takes great care with his characters and the story's lengthy execution; Koch's performance is as buttoned-up as it is harrowing; and cinematographer Caleb Deschanel delivers a gorgeous picture. Whether that adds up to something meaningful is the individual moviegoer's call. Though perhaps Barnert speaks for his creator when he says, "I don't make statements. I make pictures." **C+**



# AS YOU LIKE IT

The Guthrie makes Shakespeare fresh and funny



DAN NORMAN

BY JAY GABLER

Minneapolis may still be crushed under a thick blanket of white, but spring is now available in 150-minute doses at the Guthrie Theater. The blossoming effect of *As You Like It* extends beyond the refreshing costumes and the play's optimistic themes: The production evinces a vibrant spirit of renewal in our theater community.

Of course, things aren't all sunshine and daffodils. Duke Frederick (Chris Thorn) has exiled his own brother, Duke Senior (also Thorn), before the story even starts, and it doesn't take too long for Frederick to send his brother's daughter, Rosalind (Meghan Kreidler), packing as well.

Hope springs eternal, though, and in one of the funniest among the show's many amusing scenes, Duke Senior tries to rally his banished court to embrace their new men-of-the-woods status. The duke's shivering associates aren't buying his Bold North pitch, but Rosalind isn't about to let her rustic togs or hidden identity stop her from pursuing a relationship with fellow exile Orlando (Jesse Bhamrah).

It's not Shakespeare's most compelling plot, but director Lavina Jadhvani is much more concerned with the way the characters respond to their changing fortunes. From beginning to end, this production revels in the spunky resourcefulness of these down-wardly mobile nobles.

In her Guthrie debut, Jadhvani proves to be one of the most lucid Shakespeare interpreters the theater has employed in recent years. That's evident from the show's

## AS YOU LIKE IT

Guthrie Theater  
818 S. Second St., Minneapolis  
612-377-2224; through March 17

opening moments, when Orlando gets bounced from a nightclub reminiscent of Studio 54. A confrontation with his brother Oliver (Luis Vega) establishes the scrappy underdog, and we're rooting for him as he takes on Frederick's wrestling champion (Brandon Dahlquist) with Rosalind and her cousin Celia (Andrea San Miguel) stopping to gawk on their way home from the gym.

Kreidler's been rising steadily for years, and given this role on the region's most illustrious stage, she holds the audience in the palm of her hand as Rosalind commands the situation with style. She's officially a star, and her chemistry with San Miguel makes them an instantly iconic pair of heroines.

Jadhvani amplifies the female-forward energy by giving two plum supporting roles to women as well, although they were written as male. Sarah Agnew proudly declares her noble clown Touchstone's love for the goofy goatherd Audrey (Marika Proctor), and Angela Timberman burns down the house with Jaques' famous "all the world's a stage" speech, which gains new resonance when the actor detailing men's predictable posturing is a woman.

The show bursts with the kind of infectious fun that more ostensibly accessible plays often strain for and fall short. The theater regularly rocks with the kind of laughter you don't often hear at a Shakespeare show: genuine, spontaneous, universal. It makes the centuries-old Bard seem young again. **CP**

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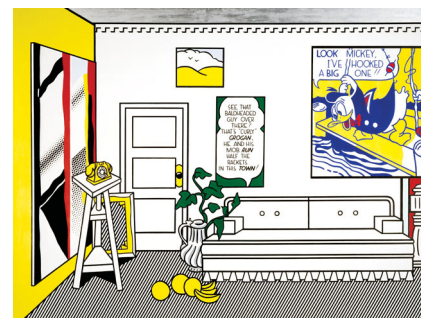
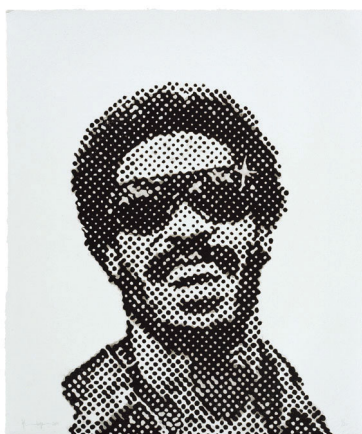
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# Get lost with us...

clockwise (from top left): Cindy Sherman, *Untitled #403*, 2000, T. B. Walker Acquisition Fund, 2001; Courtesy the artist and Metro Pictures; New York; Katharina Fritsch, *Pudel (Poodle)*, 1995, T. B. Walker Acquisition Fund, 1996; ©2019 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York; Roy Lichtenstein, *Green Pea*, 1965, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Johnson, 1983; ©2019 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.; / Licensed by Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York; Roy Lichtenstein, *Artist's Studio No. 7 (Look Mickey)*, 1973, Gift of Judy and Kenneth Dayton and the T. B. Walker Foundation, 1981; ©Estate of Roy Lichtenstein; Elsworth Kelly, *Green*, 1968, Purchased with matching grants from the Museum Purchase Plan, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Art Center Acquisition Fund, 1969; ©Elsworth Kelly Foundation; Glenn Ligon, *Self-Portrait at Eleven Years Old*, 2004, T. B. Walker Acquisition Fund, 2005; Sherrie Levine, *Fountain (after Marcel Duchamp)*, 1991, T. B. Walker Acquisition Fund, 1992



# STREET *Style*

**NAÉL ALBUM LISTENING PARTY** Album release show held at the Clickbait Collective House **BY SAMSON MELKAMU**



## MICHU DABALA

26, AIRCRAFT DEICER

### What are you wearing?

Canterbury of New Zealand rugby polo, Timex Expedition chronograph watch, Columbia PFG hunting pants, K-Swiss CMF sneakers.

### Describe your style:

Your dad's best friend who peaked in high school

### How does the music you make influence your style?

I make emotional music and wear a lot of cotton, just in case I need to pop a tear quick.

### In celebration of Black History Month, what historic black figure had the best style?

The pioneering Afrobeat composer Fela Kuti had outfits so hard you could tell he was an activist.



## ALBERT GREENE

22, DJ AND EVENT CURATOR

### What are you wearing?

Peep Game racer denim button-up, Captain Rebel MLK shirt, burgundy Levi's from middle school, Adidas Nakel Matchcourt sneakers.

### Describe your style:

A combination of BMW, skate, and urban streetwear culture.

### One thing in your closet you couldn't live without:

You could take my closet from me and I'd still be me and alive. I'd be really upset if I had to restart my entire Peep Game collection though.

### In celebration of Black History Month, what historic black figure had the best style?

Richard Roundtree as Shaft. Style goes deeper than just what you're wearing; the attitude you're wearing it with is almost just as important.



## NATE "NAÉL" FIKRU

25, MUSICIAN AND SOFTWARE ENGINEER

### What are you wearing?

Thrifted jacket and pants, Doc Martens boots, Express button-up, and Warby Parker glasses.

### Describe your style:

Slacker vibes with a touch of professionalism.

### If your style were a song, what would it be?

"Buried" off my debut album "Naél" because it's laid-back yet versatile.

### Who is your biggest style influence?

Steve Lacy. He tends to make seemingly normal items unique, something I try to emulate.



## HAYLEE BRIASCO

25, AUDIO ENGINEER, PRODUCER, AND TOURING MUSICIAN FOR CLAIRO

### What are you wearing?

Eyebuydirect glasses, Brixton beanie, Urban Outfitters jacket, BDG black jeans, Doc Martens boots, and my rose gold necklace.

### Describe your style:

Lez chic.

### What are your style goals for 2019?

Since I'm on tour all year I would like to develop my stage style into a more cohesive look, through and through.

### If your style were a song what would it be?

Anything by James Blake because he is so relaxed.



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Alec Ness



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

## PLEASED TO MEET ME

After finding success as Su Na, producer Alec Ness would like to reintroduce himself

BY EAMON WHALEN

**“W**hy do we have this moment of clarity that just disappears?”

It’s a sunny day and Alec Ness sits in a shady Uptown coffee shop musing on a stubborn fact of the human condition. Our ability to adapt and endure, he says, can lead to driftless complacency. And yet, “there’s this crazy sinking feeling of mortal awareness that you can tap into every once a while,” he says. “But then that feeling is gone as fast as it came. Then you’re back to normal like, back to the TV or any of the petty shit going on in your life.”

One such moment inspired Ness to embark on a bold creative transition last year: He’s adopted a new moniker, taken a new sonic direction, and will drop a new album on February 21. On *Temporary Awareness of Passing*, the first release

under his birth name and the second to feature his singing, Ness channels those rare slivers of existential clarity into a U.K. garage-inspired record that’s rough around the edges in all the right ways—a sharp turn from the more polished sound of his popular alias, Su Na.

Ness remembers hearing the enigmatic British producer Aphex Twin at an impressionable age; he’s passed through a dozen or so more musical phases since, but that experience kept an electronic current charging through all the music he made. While attempting to record the punk bands he was drumming in growing up in Grand Forks, South Dakota, he became obsessed with production software. Days after graduation, he split for the Twin Cities. “That was always the plan. I needed to get out of that small-town mindset,” says Ness.

After stints studying classical composition at McNally Smith and managing a guitar store back in South Dakota, Ness took an old friend up on an offer and moved to San Francisco on a whim. There he assumed the Su Na alias and dove headfirst into the then-blooming West Coast beat scene, what he calls “the most formative experience of my life.”

Ness’s interpretation of that sound—a producer-led convergence of R&B, hip-hop, and electronic—took off.

His song “Hudson” got placed on the influential YouTube channel Majestic Casual, out-of-town acts booked Su Na as an opener, and major-label artists like Goldlink and Gallant sought him out for official remixes. He became a certified instructor of the program Ableton Live, one of only 50 in the country at the time. The FADER premiered his breakout EP, *Surface*, which featured appearances by up-and-coming singers like Ravyn Lenae and Dizzy Fae.

To an outside observer, things seemed to be going exactly as Ness had planned.

But as Su Na gained steam, Ness ran into the dilemma that arises when art collides with commerce: delivering what your fans expect while staying true to your creative inclinations. Ness had always had a near-scientific approach to music. If a sound or genre interested him—ambient, pop, R&B, hip-hop, jazz, vaporwave, whatever—he would deconstruct and reverse-engineer it into something he could call his own. But something was lacking. “I felt like what I was doing was only partially me and partially me following trends,” he says. He started to think of his versatility as the absence of a distinct perspective. “I couldn’t rein it in,” says Ness. “Everybody has a perspective and something to share with the world. Otherwise, why are you creating?”

Ness didn’t want to keep regurgitating ideas, so he holed himself up in his studio with a bunch of analog synthesizers and started experimenting. “I’d play a certain synth line and I’d notice how it affects me emotionally, whereas before I might obsess over whether it sounded cool enough,” he says. He returned to music that inspired him years before, early stuff by Mount Kimbie and James Blake that was dynamic and noisy and utilized negative space. Ness was also particularly inspired by the tempo and percussive structure of U.K. garage, club music that hit its stride in the late ’90s—a buoyant 130 beats-per-minute thump with funky bass rhythms and off-beat hi-hats. “These were the artists that originally made me want to make electronic music,” says Ness.

Then he looked at his hands. Ness was born with shortened fingers, which prevents him from playing guitar and certain chord structures on a piano. “I discovered I could break my limitation by simply recording a lot of melodies all together and using sequencers to play my synthesizers in a less conventional way,” explains Ness. “This formed chord structures that were unconventional, but a lot more complex and exciting.” Ness had arrived at the unique perspective he’d been looking for, so it felt only natural to use his voice and his name. “I was scared to let go of my audience, but the singing was the icing on it. I thought ‘I’m even further down the tunnel now, I have to go with Alec Ness.’”

On *TAOP*, Ness treats his voice as if it was another instrument in his toolkit, presenting it in different tones, forms, and contexts. Sometimes it’s up close and personal, and other times obfuscated, like on the opener, “Manifest Death,” where Ness’ vocals are pitched down, sped up, and bounced along a hard-charging kick drum. On “Violated Time,” a danceable track with a sticky chorus, Ness’ voice is at its most unvarnished, emerging from under the static and gliding urgently forward. “I want to evoke more than just casual listening,” he says. “I want [my music] to have enough personality and impact on the listener where they describe it with the characteristics of how you might analyze movie characters in relation to yourself.”

Ness spent his early career learning the rules in order to be able to break them. He spent hours poring over meticulous details and tailoring his music to fit a premade mold. On *TAOP*, he operated with an ethos that’s closer to his punk-rock roots. If there was an accidental distortion with his analog equipment that sounded good in the final mix, he kept it in. That also carried over to his live performances, which he’d often found unfulfilling as a producer and DJ. In London over the summer backing up Dizzy Fae (who he will continue to produce for as Su Na), he got to try out his Alec Ness material. “It was the best set I’ve ever played. People came up to me after saying, ‘This reminds me of garage music,’” says Ness. “It felt like it really resonated.”

By reintroducing himself as himself, Ness hopes to make a lasting impression. If not, at least he knows he tried to channel that brief morbid feeling into something meaningful. “This project was a reality check,” says Ness. “I need to be true to myself or I’m never going to be happy doing this.” **GF**



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## LIVE EVENTS

Friday, Feb. 22 || 8 pm  
**Momentary Lapse of Floyd**  
A Tribute to Pink Floyd  
Synced to Film

Saturday, Feb. 23 || 8 pm  
**Paris 1919, Flavor Crystals & American Cream**

Wednesday, Feb. 27 || 7:30 pm  
**The Moth StorySLAM:**  
Love Hurts

## CINEMA

Thursday, Feb. 21 || 7:30 pm  
**The Road Warrior** (1981)  
35mm Presentation

Saturday Matinee, Feb. 23 || 1 pm  
**The Dark Crystal** (1982) Digital

Thursday, Feb. 28 || 7:30 pm  
**Harold and Maude** (1971) Digital

Saturday Matinee, Mar. 2 || 1 pm  
**The Princess Bride** (1987) Digital

Find tickets & more show listings at [TheParkwayTheater.com](http://TheParkwayTheater.com)

## MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS

### COLTER WALL

FIRST AVENUE, THURSDAY 2.21

Small-town Saskatchewan native Colter Wall plays sparse, desolate folk and country songs, his low, slow voice sharing more than a little in common with Johnny Cash. Just 23, Wall's both an old soul and a wonderkind, two albums into a catalog that's already shown him to be a beyond-his-years storyteller with a particular flair for murder ballads. In-demand country producer Dave Cobb (Chris Stapleton, Sturgill Simpson, Jason Isbell) has handled both of Wall's albums so far, though his stark songwriting doesn't ask for much studio trickery—it's compelling enough by itself. With Wade Sapp. 18+. 7 p.m. \$20/\$22. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

### BEIRUT

PALACE THEATRE, SATURDAY 2.23

Led by New Mexico native Zach Condon and his warm baritone, Beirut have hung around the indie-sphere for a decade-plus, making gorgeous, eclectic music that's drawn from disparate strands of "world music" (most notably Balkan folk) and reminding you that you might need more flugelhorn and glockenspiel in your life. For their past two albums, 2015's *No No No* and this month's *Gallipoli*, they've had a fruitful relationship with producer Gabe Wax (the War on Drugs, Ought). 18+. 6:30 p.m. \$41/\$56. 17 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-266-8989. —MICHAEL MADDEN

### ACTION BRONSON

FIRST AVENUE, SUNDAY 2.24

The outlandish Queens rapper Action Bronson has grown from an NYC underground curio—some heavily bearded, 300-pound chef rapping discursive, WTF verses as a hobby—to a global cult hero for his music and cooking-show gigs. (He even has a role in Scorsese's upcoming *The Irishman*.) Bronson's overall busyness has slowed down his musical output compared to how he cranked out albums and mixtapes early in the 2010s, but at just 26 minutes, his latest, *White Bronco*, is too deliciously fun to feel slight. With Roc Marciano and Mayhem Lauren. 18+. 7:30 p.m. \$35. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

### SHRIMPNOSE AND K.RAYDIO

7TH ST. ENTRY, SUNDAY 2.24

Both rising talents out of Minneapolis, singer K.Raydio and producer Shrimpnose have come together for a joint album, ...*And the World Weeps*, out Friday via New York label AntiFragile Music. On the previously released singles "Bully" and "Cabernet" the two fused K.Raydio's enchanting singing with Shrimpnose's atmospheric, woozy beatmaking, creating music distinctly different from, say, K.Raydio's recent solo EP, *1:11*. With Nazeem & Spencer Joles, Destiny Roberts, Radio Ahlee, and Falls. 18+. 8 p.m. \$10/\$12. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

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10PM

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10PM

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10PM

90s DANCE PARTY FT. DJ AIRMAN HEAT

FRI FEB 22ND

10PM

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10PM

FT. THE BEVEREKS

SAT FEB 23RD

10PM

PERT NEAR SANDSTONE'S WINTER STRINGBAND PRE-PARTY Pt 2

10PM

FT. FAREBEEZ UNION

SUN FEB 24TH

10PM

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

**♈ ARIES** (March 21-April 19): In December 1915, the California city of San Diego was suffering from a drought. City officials hired a professional “moisture accelerator” named Charles Hatfield, who promised to make it rain. Soon Hatfield was shooting explosions of a secret blend of chemicals into the sky from the top of a tower. The results were quick. A deluge began in early January of 1916 and persisted for weeks. Thirty inches of rain fell, causing floods that damaged the local infrastructure. The moral of the story, as far as you’re concerned, Aries: When you ask for what you want and need, specify exactly how much you want and need. Don’t make an open-ended request that could bring you too much of a good thing.

**♉ TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Actors Beau Bridges and Jeff Bridges are brothers born to parents who were also actors. When they were growing up, they already had aspirations to follow in their mom’s and dad’s footsteps. From an early age, they summoned a resourceful approach to attracting an audience. Now and then they would start a pretend fight in a store’s parking lot. When a big enough crowd had gathered to observe their shenanigans, they would suddenly break off from their faux struggle, grab their guitars from their truck, and begin playing music. In the coming weeks, I hope you’ll be equally ingenious as you brainstorm about ways to expand your outreach.

**♊ GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): According to Edward Bernard’s book *New York City Trees*, a quarter of the city is shaded by its 5.2 million trees. In other words, one of the most densely populated, frantically active places on the planet has a rich collection of oxygen-generating greenery. There’s even a virgin forest at the upper tip of Manhattan, as well as five botanical gardens and the 843-acre Central Park. Let’s use all this bounty amidst the bustle as a symbol of what you should strive to foster in the coming weeks: refreshing lushness and grace interspersed throughout your busy, hustling rhythm.

**♋ CANCER** (June 21-July 22): As a poet myself, I regard good poetry as highly useful. It can nudge us free of our habitual thoughts and provoke us to see the world in ways we’ve never imagined. On the other hand, it’s not useful in the same way that food and water and sleep are. Most people don’t get sick if they are deprived of poetry. But I want to bring your attention to a poem that is serving a very practical purpose in addition to its inspirational function. Simon Armitage’s poem “In Praise of Air” is on display in an outdoor plaza at Sheffield University. The material it’s printed on is designed to literally remove a potent pollutant from the atmosphere. And what does this have to do with you? I suspect that in the coming weeks you will have an extra capacity to generate blessings that are like Armitage’s poem: useful in both practical and inspirational ways.

**♌ LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): In 1979, psychologist Dorothy Tennov published her book *Love and Limerence: The Experience of Being in Love*. She defined her newly coined word “limerence” as a state of adoration that may generate intense, euphoric, and obsessive feelings for another person. Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Leos are most likely to be visited by this disposition throughout 2019. And you’ll be especially prone to it in the coming weeks. Will that be a good thing or a disruptive thing? It all depends on how determined you are to regard it as a blessing, have fun with it, and enjoy it regardless of whether or not your feelings are reciprocated. I advise you to enjoy the hell out of it!

**♍ VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Based in Switzerland, Nestle is the largest food company in the world. Yet it pays just \$200 per year to the state of Michigan for the right to suck up 400 million gallons of groundwater, which it bottles and sells at a profit. I nominate this vignette to be your cautionary tale in the coming weeks. How? 1. Make damn sure you are being fairly compensated for your offerings. 2. Don’t allow huge, impersonal forces to exploit your resources. 3. Be tough and discerning, not lax and naive, as you negotiate deals.

**♎ LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sixteenth-century Italian artist Daniele da Volterra wasn’t very famous for his own painting and sculpture. The work for which we remember him today is the alterations he made to Michelangelo’s giant fresco *The Last Judgment*, which spreads across an entire wall in the Sistine Chapel. After Michelangelo died, the Catholic Church hired da Volterra to “fix” the scandalous aspects of the people depicted in the master’s work. He painted clothes and leaves over the originals’ genitalia and derrieres. In accordance with astrological omens, I propose that we make da Volterra your anti-role model for the coming weeks. *Don’t* be like him. *Don’t* engage in cover-ups, censorship, or camouflage. Instead, specialize in the opposite: revelations, unmaskings, and expositions.

**♏ SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What is the quality of your access to life’s basic necessities? How well do you fulfill your need for good food and drink, effective exercise, deep sleep, thorough relaxation, mental stimulation, soulful intimacy, a sense of meaningfulness, nourishing beauty, and rich feelings? I bring these questions to your attention, Scorpio, because the rest of 2019 will be an excellent time for you to fine-tune and expand your relationships with these fundamental blessings. And now is an excellent time to intensify your efforts.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Michael Jackson’s 1982 song “Beat It” climbed to number three on the record-sales charts in Australia. On the other hand, “Weird Al” Yankovic’s 1984 parody of Jackson’s tune, “Eat It,” reached number one on the same charts. Let’s use this twist as a metaphor that’s a good fit for your life in the coming weeks. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you may find that a stand-in or substitute or imitation will be more successful than the original. And that will be auspicious!

**♑ CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The Space Needle in Seattle, Washington is 605 feet high and 138 feet wide: a tall and narrow tower. Near the top is a round restaurant that makes one complete rotation every 47 minutes. Although this part of the structure weighs 125 tons, for many years its motion was propelled by a mere 1.5 horsepower motor. I think you will have a comparable power at your disposal in the coming weeks: an ability to cause major movement with a compact output of energy.

**♒ AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 1941, the Ford automobile company created a “biological car.” Among its components were “bioplastics” composed of soybeans, hemp, flax, wood pulp, and cotton. It weighed a thousand pounds less than a comparable car made of metal. This breakthrough possibility never fully matured, however. It was overshadowed by newly abundant plastics made from petrochemicals. I suspect that you Aquarians are at a phase with a resemblance to the biological car. Your good idea is promising but unripe. I hope you’ll spend the coming weeks devoting practical energy to developing it. (P.S. There’s a difference between you and your personal equivalent of the biological car: little competition.)

**♓ PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Cartographers of Old Europe sometimes drew pictures of strange beasts in the uncharted regions of their maps. These were warnings to travelers that such areas might harbor unknown risks, like dangerous animals. One famous map of the Indian Ocean shows an image of a sea monster lurking, as if waiting to prey on sailors traveling through its territory. If I were going to create a map of the frontier you’re now headed for, Pisces, I would fill it with mythic beasts of a more benevolent variety, like magic unicorns, good fairies, and wise centaurs.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com

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331club

wed : february 20  
7pm : kfai house party presents  
katey bellville and the s.o.b.s  
9:30pm : ryan holweger,  
david allen, martin devaney

thu : february 21  
10pm : cross pollination  
jorgen wadkins & anna stine

fri : february 22  
7pm : laura and sean’s  
movie and music trivia  
10pm : the sex rays, slim stone

sat : february 23  
7pm : trivia mafia presents  
331 drinkin’ spelling bee  
10pm : neon blaue,  
freequeensee, ok, nice.,  
lwndsevpes, fmly frnd

sun : february 24  
3-5pm : the experience room  
with eliza blue

bar closed at 10:30pm  
for staff party

mon : february 25  
8pm : the roe family sngers  
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : february 26  
7-9pm : t.e.e. tuesday early evening  
little lizard

9:30pm : 331 club & fair state brewing coop  
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QUIET PUZZLED

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Liquid lunch?  
5 Drying out time?  
10 “Jeepers creepers!”  
14 Guitarist’s key-changing tool  
15 Certain Arab  
16 Bad funk  
17 Name on ESPN’s Courage Award  
18 Religion that celebrates Yuletide and Samhain  
19 Limb bone  
20 Go ballistic while standing atop piles of cash?  
23 Small cut  
24 Heartthrob’s record?  
25 Words used by a wealthy descendant?  
33 “Thanks a \_\_\_\_”  
35 Thread holder  
36 Simmering  
37 Refined rocks  
39 Disneyland’s home, briefly  
41 Gin flavoring  
42 New York’s Central Park has 840 of them  
44 Confess  
46 Slot receiver’s stat.  
47 Those who clean up around Chichén Itzá?  
50 Step on it, like Shakespeare  
51 Qatar’s capital  
53 Special benefits for comic Cenac?  
60 Grub  
61 Part of some tooth fairy costumes  
62 Lex Luthor’s sister or daughter (depending on which comics series you’re reading)

- 63 Superduperfan  
64 “My Aim Is True” singer Costello  
65 Two of them might be called “To a Crossword Constructor” and “To a Solver”  
66 Luxury department store headquartered on Fifth Avenue  
67 Candy man name  
68 Closing bell org.

Down

- 1 Harry Potter’s is shaped like a lightning bolt  
2 Welcome site in the desert  
3 Chair covering  
4 Word with justice or license  
5 This direction  
6 Give off  
7 Dash measurement  
8 Back in the day  
9 Chinese city on an island with the same name  
10 Tykes  
11 Not moving  
12 “My Little \_\_\_\_”  
13 Prominent time  
21 Elevator pioneer  
22 Indie rock band that makes elaborate one-take videos  
26 Choose  
27 Certainly not  
28 Last name that is a homophone of 36-Across’s second word  
29 Unmatched?  
30 “The Breakfast Club” actress

- 31 Satisfactorily  
32 Group of animals that sound like a verb  
33 Claylike soil  
34 Fierce whale  
38 Super Bowl XLVIII winners  
40 Trophy  
43 Bad attitude  
45 Salon job, briefly  
48 Hunting dog  
49 Sure thing?  
52 Patron saint of virgins  
53 “Dayum, son”  
54 England city with a famous Minster  
55 Unread books on a bedside table, say  
56 Five star review  
57 It might be in a 58-Down  
58 Home for a 57-Down  
59 Simplicity  
60 Alternatives to streaming

Last Week’s Answer

C	L	E	R	I	C		M	A	J		M	V	P	S
P	A	R	I	S	H		E	T	A		T	I	R	E
S	T	O	O	L	I	E	D	A	N		F	R	E	T
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E	L	L	E		A	N	G		T	A	L	E	N	T
A	Y	E	S		B	O	A		E	X	T	R	A	S



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## SAVAGE LOVE

# Consider the (Extra) Lobster

Readers take a crack at defining a sexual neologism

**T**wo weeks ago, a longtime reader challenged me to create a sexual neologism. “Neo-Neologisms, Please!”

I was too polite to point it out, but my two most famous and widely used neologisms have been around so long—pegging (2001) and santorum (2003)—that they’re practically paleogisms at this point. So I accepted NNP’s challenge and proposed “with extra lobster.” My inspiration: On a visit to Iceland, I was delighted to discover that “with extra lobster” was a menu item at food carts that served lobster. This delighted me for two reasons. First, lobster is fucking delicious and getting extra lobster with your lobster is fucking awesome. And second, “with extra lobster” sounded like it was a dirty euphemism for something equally awesome. I offered up my own suggested definition—someone who sticks their tongue out and licks your balls while they’re deep-throating your cock is giving you a blowjob with extra lobster—and invited readers to send in their own.

What follows are reader-suggested definitions for “with extra lobster,” with occasional commentary from yours truly...

*I think I have a good candidate for your “with extra lobster” definition! It could be applied to a man who has an exceptionally large and dangling foreskin (“His penis comes with extra lobster!”) or a woman whose labia protrudes (“I love pussy with extra lobster!”).*

*When I first started dating my wife, she kept her nethers waxed clean, and they looked a bit like a lobster claw, even being slightly red if the waxing was recent. We nicknamed her vagina and surrounding area “The Lobster,” or “Lobby” for short. So I would suggest that “with extra lobster” should mean anytime you get some extra lobster in on the act—from lesbian sex (two lobsters!), to a standard-issue male fantasy threesome (two lobsters and one cock), to a surprise second go-around after you thought the sex was over.*

**The area surrounding the vagina** already has a name: the vulva. While most people are familiar with the labia majora and minora parts of the vulva, aka “the lips,”

fewer know the name for the area between the labia minora. The spot where the opening to the vaginal canal can be found—also part of the vulva—is called the “vaginal vestibule.” According to my thesaurus, lobby is a synonym for vestibule. So this proposed definition of “with extra lobster” is pretty apt. Now, some will quibble with the lobby-ish implication that a vagina is a space that needs to be entered. One can have

a good time—great sex with lots of extra lobster—without anyone being penetrated, i.e., without anyone entering the lobby.

*“With extra lobster” should refer to any intimate pleasure where your expectations are greatly exceeded! I’m a gay man in my sixties, and my husband and I have been together for decades. I also have a friend with benefits. One night we were camping and I blurted out, “I would like to cuddle with you.” What happened next was 12 courses—at least—with extra lobster! We’ve managed to rekindle this energy every couple of years over the past 25!*

*I believe your example of “with extra lobster” regarding an extra WOW factor during something sexual is perfect and doesn’t need extra explanation. As the saying goes, Dan, you pegged it!*

**I agree with the last two** letter writers: “with extra lobster” shouldn’t refer to any specific sex act, but should, instead, be a general term meaning “expectations exceeded.” When someone really comes through for you, when they knock your socks off, when they make you see stars—when they really WOW you—then you got boned or blown or fucked or flogged or torn apart and eaten by zombies with extra lobster!

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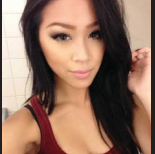
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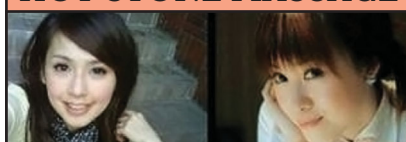
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